

Hand File No. *1626*

OFFICE
OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT: *Occult Book*
Co.,
Topeka, & Oakland, Kas.

ACTION: Papers referred for investigation on following
date: _____

Returned to files of Office of Assistant Attorney General
on following date: _____

Returned to writer: _____

P.V.K.

Sum

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1902.

M E M O R A N D U M .

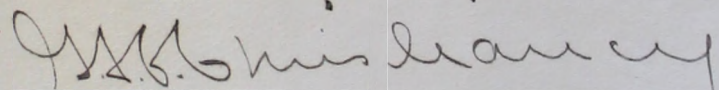
IN RE Occult Book Company, Topeka, and Oakland, Kansas, for operating through the mails a scheme devised for obtaining money under false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises, in violation of Sections 3929 and 4041, R.S., U.S., as amended.

Evidence has been submitted to this Office that the above-named concern is operating through the mails a scheme to defraud. Its plan is as follows: To sell a book, entitled "A Physician in the House," for \$2.50 coupled with a promise to give the purchaser thereof work at home writing five letters per day and distributing the same among the writer's friends--for which work the employee is to receive \$3.25 per week. The salary commences one week from the date of the first letter written, but \$.75 is paid the worker for the first week's expenses of postage, etc. Similar promises are made to all purchasing the book for the small consideration named.

This concern was called upon on the 19th instant to show cause as to why a Fraud Order should not be issued against it for conducting through the mails a scheme inimical to the Fraud and Lottery Law. The date set for the hearing was July 29, 1902. The reply of the company to the notification to show cause is, that it is discontinuing the objectionable chain letter business, and that it has paid most of its workers and will in the future pay all those who have not heretofore been paid. However, inasmuch as the proprietor of the Occult Book Co. has the addresses of all his workers, the issue of a Fraud Order against the company will not interfere with his settling with his writers, for he can use his personal address for that purpose. It is not stated that business other than that relating to the chain letter plan is being conducted under the name Occult Book Co. The delivery of mail addressed

Occult Book Co. would in no wise facilitate the settlement by the promoter of this scheme with those of his workers whom he has not so far paid; and as there seems to be no question as to its relating to the fraudulent chain letter scheme, for the promoter has not stated that any other business is being conducted under the name Occult Book Co., it is my opinion that the proper disposition of this mail is to have it returned to the senders marked "Fraudulent" in accordance with the provisions of the law.

I therefore recommend that an order be issued to the postmasters at Topeka and Oakland, Kansas, forbidding the delivery of mail matter and the payment of money-orders to the Occult Book Co.


Acting Assistant Attorney General
for the Post Office Department.

TO

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

File No. 6192.

COPY

Post Office Department,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 30 1902.

ORDER No. 845

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that

Occult Book Co.

at

Oakland, Kansas, is

engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, in violation of the Act of Congress entitled "An act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890—

Now, therefore, by authority vested in him by said act, and by the Act of Congress entitled "An act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1895, the Postmaster General hereby *forbids you to pay any Postal Money Order* drawn

to the order of said

concern,

and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to *return all letters*, whether registered or not, and *other mail matter* which shall arrive at your office directed to the said

concern

to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the *Dead-Letter Office* with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(Signed:)

R. J. Wynne

Acting

Postmaster General.

To the Postmaster,

Oakland, Kansas.

File No. 6192.

COPY

Post Office Department,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 30 1902.

ORDER No. 846

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that

Occult Book Co.

Topeka, Kansas, is

at engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, in violation of the Act of Congress entitled "An act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890—

Now, therefore, by authority vested in him by said act, and by the Act of Congress entitled "An act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1893, the Postmaster General hereby *forbids you to pay any Postal Money Order* drawn

to the order of said

concern,

and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to *return all letters*, whether registered or not, and *other*

mail matter which shall arrive at your office directed to the said

concern

to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the *Dead-Letter Office* with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(Signed:)

R. J. Wynne

Acting

Postmaster General.

To the Postmaster,

Topeka, Kansas.

File No. 6192.

Grand
File No. *1633*

OFFICE
OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT: *E. E. Crouch,*
Manager of Occult
Book Co.

ACTION: Papers referred for investigation on following
date:

Returned to files of Office of Assistant Attorney General
on following date:

Returned to writer:

LZG

Post Office Department,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Aug. 14, 1902

ORDER No. 918

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that

E. E. Crouch, Manager of Occult Book Co.,

at Topeka and Oakland, Kansas, is engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, in violation of the Act of Congress entitled "An act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890—

Now, therefore, by authority vested in him by said act, and by the Act of Congress entitled "An act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1895, the Postmaster General hereby *forbids you to pay any Postal Money Order* drawn

to the order of said party

and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to *return all letters*, whether registered or not, and *other mail matter* which shall arrive at your office directed to the said party

to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the *Dead-Letter Office* with the word "*Fraudulent*" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(Signed) R. Hoynes,
Acting Postmaster General.

To the Postmaster,
Topeka, Kansas.
Oakland, Kansas.

J.

December 5, 1904.

ORDER NO.

MEMORANDUM.

IN RE

E. E. CROUCH, Topeka and Oakland, Kansas.

On August 14, 1902, fraud order number 918 was issued against E.E.Crouch at Topeka, Kansas and Oakland, Kansas, as manager of the Occult Book Company, against which concern a fraud order had previously issued. Under date of November 16, 1904, Mr. Crouch filed with this office affidavit to the effect that the objectionable business of the Occult Book Company has been abandoned by him and that he will not hereafter at any time engage in any similar enterprise. I therefore recommend that the fraud order against him be revoked.

Very respectfully,

Assistant Attorney General
for the Post Office Department.

To the Postmaster General.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C.

ORDER NO.

ORDERED

That Fraud Order number 918, dated August 14, 1902, against
E. E. Crouch, Manager of Occult Book Company, at Topeka, Kansas, and
Oakland, Kansas, be and the same hereby is revoked.

Postmaster General.

J.

December 2, 1904.

Postmaster

Oakland, Kansas.

Sir:-

I inclose herewith a copy of order No. 1340, dated December 7, 1904, revoking order No. 918, of date August 14, 1902, against E. E. CROUCH, Manager of the Occult Book Company, at Topeka, Kansas, and Oakland, Kansas, the original of which, signed by the Postmaster General, has been retained on the files of this Department. Mr. Crouch's mail is released with the distinct understanding that he has abandoned the objectionable business of the Occult Book Company and will not at any time hereafter engage in any similar enterprise. Very respectfully,

Very respectfully,

Assistant Attorney General
for the Post Office Department.

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1340.

Dec. 7, 1904

ORDERED

That Fraud Order number 918, dated August 14, 1902, against
E. E. Crouch, Manager of Occult Book Company, at Topeka, Kansas, and
Oakland, Kansas, be and the same hereby is revoked.

(Signed) R. J. Wynne
Postmaster General.

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OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

December 5, 1904.

MEMORANDUM.

IN RE

E. E. CROUCH, Topeka and Oakland, Kansas.

On August 14, 1902, fraud order number 918 was issued against E.E.Crouch at Topeka, Kansas and Oakland, Kansas, as manager of the Occult Book Company, against which concern a fraud order had previously issued. Under date of November 16, 1904, Mr. Crouch filed with this office affidavit to the effect that the objectionable business of the Occult Book Company has been abandoned by him and that he will not hereafter at any time engage in any similar enterprise. I therefore recommend that the fraud order against him be revoked.

Very respectfully,

R. P. Goodwin
Assistant Attorney General
for the Post Office Department.

To the Postmaster General.

LAW OFFICES
SILAS C. SWEET,
DES MOINES, IOWA.
PATENT LAW A SPECIALTY.
EQUITABLE BUILDING.

SOLICIT business from those only
who want their ideas properly protected

November 16, 1904.

Mr. R. P. Goodwin,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-- I have the honor to transmit to you an affidavit executed by Edgar E. Crouch, of Oakland, Kansas. This affidavit is made pursuant to your letter of July 20, 1904, addressed to Hon. Charles Curtis, member of congress, Topeka, Kansas, and is offered in lieu of a similar affidavit executed September 28, 1904, and returned by you on the ground that it was not sufficient. Referring to your letter of July 20, 1904, I have consulted very carefully with Mr. Crouch and he assures me he wishes to do everything you suggest in that letter and it is submitted that the same is embodied in the affidavit herewith presented. Representing Mr. Crouch I respectfully request that you give this matter favorable attention and revoke the fraud order in question.

Yours very respectfully,

SCS-EHB

ENCLOSURE.

Silas C. Sweet

Polk County, Iowa.

A F F I D A V I T .

STATE OF IOWA,)
) ss.
COUNTY OF POLK.)

Edgar E. Crouch, being duly sworn deposes and says that about two years ago he was doing a business through the mail and for causes over which he had no control he was unable to fill all of his contracts and obligations and the Post Office Department stopped his mail; that he has now fulfilled as many of his obligations as is possible for him to do without use of the mails; that he had voluntarily stopped the mail business two months before his mail was stopped and has no desire to enter it again; that he is now a member of the firm of J. M. Keith and Company with headquarters at Des Moines, Iowa, and transacting business at Topeka, Kansas, and elsewhere and is doing a good business; that he desires very much to have mail rights restored to him as it is very humiliating to be thus branded as a criminal without cause; that he has never been arrested for any cause; that he has never been before the courts for any cause in his life; that he is a law abiding citizen; and that he solemnly undertakes that no scheme or enterprize similar to that conducted by him at Oakland and Topeka, Kansas, under his name and under the name of "The Occult Book Company" will hereafter be at any time engaged in by him nor will he be a party to the conduct of any such business by others nor enter the employ of any other person engaging in such business.

Edgar E. Crouch

Subscribed and sworn to before me this eighteenth day of
November, 1904.

[Signature]
Notary Public, in and for,
Polk County, Iowa.

